UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Examiner's Detailed Office Action

1.   Claims 1-20 are allowed.

Examiner's Amendment

2.   On Tuesday, March 11, 2008, Mark S. Svat, Reg. No. 34,261, Applicant's

representative, authorized the examiner to amend claim11, to include the limitation

"having a processor." An Interview Summary has been included.

Regarding claim 11.

11. A system for conducting a negotiation between a plurality of participants, comprising:

having a processor;

a plurality of components for performing the negotiation; each component being a participant,

a coordinator, or both; each component being provided with a conversion table that maps a set

of parameters between invocation patterns instantiated by the participants; each coordinator

being provided with a negotiation graph that it modifies to coordinate its neighborhood of nego-

tiation graphs and each participant with a negotiation graph that it modifies for each invocation

pattern it instantiates; and a first message type and a second message type for sending between

components that communicate directly with each other in each neighborhood of negotiation

graphs; the first message type specifying a request for notification of changes to an aspect of a

parameter at a node in the negotiation graph of the component sending the message; the second

message type specifying an assertion expressing a decision by a component concerning a proper-

ty of an aspect of the parameter at a node in the negotiation graph of the component sending the

message; wherein the first message type and the second message type are sent between the com-

ponents to collaboratively mirror their negotiation graphs using their conversion tables in each

neighborhood of negotiation graphs so that each participant only views information concerning

those aspects in its negotiation graph that relate to the parameters of the invocation patterns it

instantiated.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3.   The following is an Examiner's statement for reasons for allowance:

4.   Claims 1-20 are considered allowable since when reading the claims in light of the

specification, none of the references of record alone or in combination disclose or suggest the

combination of limitations specified in the independent claim(s).

5.   The limitations recited in independent claim 1   " ... specifying a plurality of compo-

nents to perform the negotiation; each component being a participant, a coordinator, or both;

providing each component with a conversion table that maps a set of parameters between invo-

cation patterns instantiated by the participants; providing each coordinator with a negotiation

graph that it modifies to coordinate its neighborhood of negotiation graphs and each participant

with a negotiation graph that it modifies for each invocation pattern it instantiates; and sending

a first message type and a second message type between components that communicate directly

with each other in each neighborhood of negotiation graphs; the first message type specifying a

request for notification of changes to an aspect of a parameter at a node in the negotiation graph

of the component sending the message; the second message type specifying an assertion expres-

sing a decision by a component concerning a property of an aspect of the parameter at a node in

the negotiation graph of the component sending the message; wherein the first message type and

the second message type are sent between the components to collaboratively mirror their nego-

tiation graphs using their conversion tables in each neighborhood of negotiation graphs so that

each participant only views information concerning those aspects in its negotiation graph that

relate to the parameters of the invocation patterns it instantiated."

6.   The limitations recited in independent claim 11 " … a plurality of components for

performing the negotiation; each component being a participant, a coordinator, or both; each

component being provided with a conversion table that maps a set of parameters between

invocation patterns instantiated by the participants; each coordinator being provided with a

negotiation graph that it modifies to coordinate its neighborhood of negotiation graphs and

each participant with a negotiation graph that it modifies for each invocation pattern it instant-

tiates; and a first message type and a second message type for sending between components that

communicate directly with each other in each neighborhood of negotiation graphs; the first mes-

sage type specifying a request for notification of changes to an aspect of a parameter at a node in

the negotiation graph of the component sending the message; the second message type speci-

fying an assertion expressing a decision by a component concerning a property of an aspect of

the parameter at a node in the negotiation graph of the component sending the message; wherein the first message type and the second message type are sent between the components to collaboratively mirror their negotiation graphs using their conversion tables in each neighborhood of negotiation graphs so that each participant only views information concerning those aspects in its negotiation graph that relate to the parameters of the invocation patterns it instantiated."

7.   When taken in context the claim(s) as a whole, were not uncovered in the prior art. Moreover, the dependent claims 2-10 & 12-20, are allowed as they depend upon an allowable independent claim(s).

8.   Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later that the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments regarding Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Correspondence Information

9.   Any inquires concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael B. Holmes, who may be reached Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. EST. or via telephone at (571) 272-3686 or facsimile transmission (571) 273-3686 or email michael.holmesb@uspto.gov.

If you need to send an Official facsimile transmission, please send it to (571) 273-8300.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful the Examiner's Supervisor, David Vincent, may be reached at (571) 272-3080.

Hand-delivered responses should be delivered to the Receptionist @ (Customer Service

Window Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22313), located on the first floor

of the south side of the Randolph Building.

Finally, information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Moreover, status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status

information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more

information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have any

questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC)

toll-free @ 1-866-217-9197.

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Tuesday, March 25, 2008

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/Michael B. Holmes/
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